

**NASA's Earth sciences research program and the Northern Eurasia Earth science
partnership initiative**

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NASA's Earth Science Enterprise is dedicated to understanding the total Earth system and the effects of natural and human-induced changes on the global environment. The vantage point of space provides information about Earth's land, atmosphere, ice, oceans, and biota that is obtainable in no other way. Programs of the Enterprise study the interactions among these components to advance the new discipline of Earth System Science, with a near-term emphasis on global climate change. The current focus of NASA's research program in the Earth sciences will be described with an emphasis on the Earth Observing System (EOS) of satellites; and examples of their application will be shown. One facet of this program includes the Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative or NEESPI, which will be describe. In order to meet the major goals of national and international programs of global change and carbon research, as well as many other global scientific endeavors, NASA believes that it is necessary to conduct an internationally-supported, integrated, regional study of northern Eurasia that will systematically address potentially critical issues of the Earth system. Thus, NASA is working to establish an "umbrella" project that is intended to coordinate and facilitate current Earth science research in Russia and the rest of northern Eurasia and to promote and develop this program of research. The NEESPI momentum has been growing particularly during the past 12 months; and a draft NEESPI Science Plan has being written which prioritizes the key research that needs to be accomplished, establishes an organizational structure, suggests potential international partnerships and develops a timeline for the implementation.